

these places in hundreds for the purpose of picking up gravel and small shells; when these places are covered with ice, as often happens, they hop about from one piece of ice to another, following the shore line, evidently thinking (if birds can think) there must be something wrong. I have shot several from time to time to see what their crops contained, and invariably found in them small shells, principally minute, blackish whelks, gravel, and the fruit of the mountain ash, and sometimes bits of seaweed.

All the birds I shot were in first rate condition. The winter has been a very severe one — Feb. 2 and 3, 24 and 32 degrees below zero (Fahrenheit) — but this does not seem to trouble them at all. The reason for their wintering here is possibly due to the enormous crop of mountain ash berries. — NAP. A. COMEAU, *Godbout, Province of Quebec.*

On Two Birds New to Louisiana. — In a small collection of birds recently purchased from C. S. Galbraith by the American Museum of Natural History, are two species which have not been before recorded from Louisiana; they are:—

Helminthophila leucobronchialis.—(Am. Mus. No. 54815, Mandeville, La., Spring of 1891. Collector C. S. Galbraith. Sex not determined but the example is evidently a male.) So far as pattern of marking is concerned this specimen agrees with *Helminthophila finus*. In coloration it is midway between *finus* and typical *leucobronchialis*, that is, the underparts are white with a patch of yellow on the breast and more or less of this color on the chin and abdomen, while the upper parts are bluish with a greenish wash. The tips of the wing-coverts are more heavily marked with yellow than in normal specimens of *finus*, a fact not in strict accord with Mr. Ridgway's theory of dichromatism in this puzzling group. (Cf. *Man. N. A. Birds*, p. 486, footnote.) If with Mr. Ridgway we assume this specimen to be a "leuchroic" example of *finus* we should not expect that a diminution of yellow on the abdomen and back would be attended by an increase of yellow on the wing-coverts.

Spizella pusilla arenacea. (Am. Mus. No. 54809, Mandeville, La., Winter of 1891. Collector C. S. Galbraith. Sex not determined.) A typical example of this Sparrow in winter plumage. — FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents are requested to write briefly and to the point. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.]

Florida Heron Rookeries.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AUK:—

Dear Sirs: Appreciating as one must the notes of Mr. H. K. Jamison of Philadelphia on 'Some Rookeries on the Gulf Coast of Florida,' pub-

lished in 'The Auk' (Vol. VIII, p. 233), I think perhaps an explanation is due to that gentleman and to other readers of this journal.

All assertions are in a way, I take it, comparative, and when I wrote that "there are absolutely no Heron Rookeries on the Gulf Coast of Florida, from Anclote Keys to Cape Sable" (Auk, Vol. VII, p. 221), I was fully aware of the small isolated breeding ground recorded by Mr. Jamison, as well as of a few others of similar character, though generally smaller, along the coast in question.

But I think that if any of your readers could have accompanied me over the same ground in 1874, in 1878, or even in 1880, they would have fully concurred with me in the statement quoted by Mr. Jamison, had they traversed the ground again in the spring of 1890.

It is true that there are still small isolated colonies of Herons breeding this year on one mangrove island, and driven to another in the succeeding years. But the great Heron Rookeries of Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, and the Thousand Islands, where the countless myriads of Herons were so noticeable a feature in the landscape as to attract the attention of *any one* from a long distance, no longer exist.

Not the three hundred nests that Mr. Jamison speaks of, but many, many *thousands* of nests composed such rookeries, and he would have patience indeed who could count the nests in a single acre of the two hundred acres, or thereabouts, that are included in the single rookery known as late as 1878 as 'Maximo Rookery,' just west of and near the end of Point Pinnellas at the mouth of Tampa Bay. At the same time in Charlotte Harbor there were at least five great rookeries of about equal size that I knew from personal observation. So, when I pass over this same ground now and find only here and there a few birds together, I feel I am justified in the view expressed in 'The Auk' and quoted by Mr. Jamison.

Very truly,

58 William St., New York City.

W. E. D. SCOTT.

'Birds of Greenland.'

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AUK.

Dear Sirs:—I wish to make a few statements relating to the just issued 'Birds of Greenland' by M. Chamberlain and myself. By correspondence with Mr. Herlup Winge of the Zoölogical Museum of Copenhagen I learn that two of the birds enumerated in the book are to be omitted. I here cite a letter of Mr. Winge:—

"At least two species should be omitted: (1) *Sterna hirundo* (*fluviatilis* Naum). The insertion of this species must be due to misinterpretation of synonyms. Only one species of Tern, the Arctic Tern (*Sterna maerula* or *S. paradisica*) being known from Greenland.

(2) *Empidonax pusillus*. The *Empidonax* from Greenland in the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen was wrongly entered by Reinhardt as *E. pusillus*; it is *E. flaviventris*, also later found in Greenland by Mr. Kumlien. Reinhardt himself detected the error and labelled the specimen correctly."